

Play Structures on Private Campuses Designs for every space, every age, and every purpose.

By Jenny Boyle



Photo by Jenny Boyle

The playground for 4 to 6 year olds at Saddleback Church was designed to resemble ships coming to port. The roughly 6,000 square foot space is buffered by a parking lot and a building, so to increase space near the play structure at the far end, a portion of the hill was dug out and a rock retaining wall was put in place.

The developers for these private Southern California playgrounds all had certain goals in mind when they set out to build them.

Child development experts worldwide have written volumes about the essential need of "play" during childhood. Not only do children learn to hone important motor skills, but playing on a playground can help a child develop emotionally, socially and intellectually as well. So it's easy to see why designers spend months researching the best components to include in a playground project. The right mix of active and passive play equipment can make for an educational and fun experience. Take a look at these four, very different private playgrounds and see how the designers met the needs of the children who would use them. Orange County Jewish Community Center—Irvine

When the designers at LPA Inc., in Irvine, began planning the playground at the Orange County Jewish Community Center, they knew their client wanted three separate areas for different age groups. Arash Izadi and Joe Yee worked with the folks at Kompan to design graduated play areas that incorporated geometric shapes, bright colors, and several textures.

This circular section of rubber safety surfacing, by Playsafe, Inc., is one example of how the designers used geometric shapes to designate different areas of play. They paved a bike path around the area and then planted grass around that. The use of different textures and colors is important to a child's sensory perception.